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The Athenian Mercury.

Tuesday, January 7. 1696.

The 3 following *Poems* were sent us by that *Ingenious Lady*, mention'd in *Vol.* 19. *Numb.* 17.

Canticles 7. 11.

I.

COme thou moſt *charming object* of my love,
What's all this *dull Society* to us,
Let's to the peaceful *Shades* and *Springs* remove,
I'm here uneaſy tho I linger thus.

II.

What are the *trifles* that I leave behind,
I've more than all the *valu'd world* in thee,
Where all my Joys and Wiſhes are confin'd,
Thou'rt Day and Life and Heaven it ſelf to me.

III.

Come my beloved then let us away,
To thoſe *bleſt Seats* where we'll our flames improve,
With how much heat ſhall I carreſs thee there,
And in *ſweet tranſports give up all my love.*

Micha. 6. 6,7.

I.

WHerewith ſhall I approach this *awful Lord*,
What ſhall I bring,
What ſacrifice
Will not ſo *great a deity* deſpiſe;
Tell me you *lofty ſpirits* that fall down,
The neareſt to his throne,
Oh tell me how,
Or wherewithal ſhall I before my own, and your dread maker bow.
Will *Carmels verdant* top afford,
No equal offering.
Ten thouſand rams, a bounteous offering 'tis,
When all the flocks upon a *thouſand ſpacious hills are his*,
Will *Streams of fragrant* oil his wrath controul;
Or the more precious flood,
Of my firſt born's blood,
Compound for all my depts and make a full Attonement for my Soul.

II.

If not *great God* what then doſt thou require,
Or what wilt thou daign to accept from me,
All, that my own thou giv'ſt me leave to call,
I willingly again reſign to thee.
My youth and all its blooming heat,
My muſe and every raptur'd thought, to thee I dedicate,
(Tis fit the iſſues of that *ſacred fire*,
Should to its own celeſtial orb retire)
And all my *darling vanities*,
For thee I'll ſacrifice,
My *favourite luſt* and all,
Among the reſt promiſcuouſly ſhall fall;
No more that *fond beloved* ſin I'll ſpare,
Than the great Patriarch would have *done his heir*,
And this great God altho a worthleſs prize,
Is a ſincere intire and early ſacrifice.

The Reflection.

WHere glide my thoughts, *raſh inclinations* ſtay,
and let me think what 'tis you fool away,
Stay ere it be to late, yet ſtay and take,
A ſhort review of the great prize at ſtake.
Oh! ſtupid folly 'tis eternal Joy,
That I'm about to barter for a toy;
It is my *God* oh dreadful hazard where,
Shall I again the boundleſs loſs repair!
It is my *Soul* a Soul that coſt the blood,
And painful agonies of an humbled God,
Oh bleſt occaſion made me *ſtay to think*,
Ere I was hurri'd off the dangerous brink,
Should I have took the charming venom in,
And cop'd with all *theſe terrors for a ſin*,
How equal had my condemnation been?

Queſt. 1. *SInce vertue is the ſafeſt guide for Man,*
By which he gains advantage and content;
Why does he ſhun ſo much the healthful pain,
And why ſo oft repent *he did* repent?
Since this, by nature clear can need no proof,
Why are its peaceful ways ſo little Trodd?
Why is't that men in going ſtand aloof,
And oft, too oft turn to the other Road?

I.

Anſw. In ſearch of falſe miſtaken Good we ſtray,
Soft *Pleaſure's* Baits, our heedleſs Souls ſurprize:
Repentance ſhows the true, tho rugged way,
But ah! We quit her *Aid*, and cloſe our *Eyes.*

II.

O may the Eternal *Way* and *Life*, and *Light*,
Who *came*, as *now* our *wand'ring Souls* to ſave,
Strengthen our *Wills*, direct our *Judgments* right,
And *ſnatch* from *Ruine* what himſelf he *gave.*

Queſt. 2. *Gentlemen, I have always been an admirer of your ingenious Replies, but never gave you the trouble of one till now, and this I could not eſcape, ſo many thouſands in particular, and the Nation in general, being likely to receive a benefit by it, and it is; That ſince the War and its accidents has unavoidably been the impoveriſh-*

wiſhing many thouſands of People. Who upon being proceeded againſt at Law by Creditors, have of neceſſity been forc't to become Priſoners to the Kings bench, the Fleet Ludgate, and many other Gates in the Nation, where they are either in a periſhing condition and uſeleſs to the publick (which of all things ought to be prefer'd) or at liberty upon ſuch hard Terms that differs little.

Now the queſtion will be if the People under theſe circumſtances will in their own perſons, or finding another able man ſerve in this preſent War during it, (if they ſo long live) ſhall be for that time ſet free from all Demands of Debts and Goal charges, whether it may be a ſervice to the Nation, conſidering there are many Thouſands of them (it may be more than twenty) which will make a conſiderable recruit to the Army, and all rais'd without the uſual Charges to the Nation; Theſe being in a manner all Volunteers, are valuable to twice the Number of ſome others. And as I have heard many of them ſay, in gratitude to the Nation for ſuch a Benignity, they had rather dye in the field in defence of their Country than live as they do, and uſeleſs to any. Your Judgments whether this ought to be promoted, or your Reaſons to the contrary, and as ſoon as conveniently you can, againſt the meeting of the Parliament, is Gentlemen, what is deſired by. Your Humble Servant. The 16th of Novemb. *1695.*

Anſw. This came not to our hands, tho the Bookſeller had it before, till very lately, and therefore we cou'd not anſwer in the time deſired. But to the queſtion as it now lies before us, we wou'd not willingly believe there cou'd be ſo many unhappy perſons in the Nation as the queriſt mentions. But ſuppoſing there ſhou'd be a great number of 'em, many are thrown there by their *Sloth* or *Idleneſs*, and theſe wou'd hardly be fit for the hardſhips of a Military Life. But for thoſe who are of ſtrong *Bodies* and *Active minds*, we ſhou'd think they wou'd be much more uſeful to the ſtate in thoſe *Circumſtances*, than what they are in at preſent, and heartily wiſh they were all Freemen on ſuch conditions according to their own deſires.

Queſt. 3. *Being in* Flanders *the laſt Campaign, I knew there was a Maſtiff Bitch riding in the Box with the Driver of a Carriage, which fell out of the Box. The The Bitch was then great with* Whelp, *and in the Fall her Tail was taken off, In four days after ſhe whelpt, 3 Bitch-Puppys and one Dog: The Bitch whelps were all whelps without Tails, the Dog had a Tail. This is a real Truth, and pray your opinion of the manner of it?*

Anſw. If the Fact be true, as we know not but it may, for a man wou'd ſcarce hit on ſo odd a fancy, if he wou'd himſelf invent it, here's one very ſtrange inſtance more of the power of Imagination. But how that acts, how it marks and wounds, and kills Children in the Womb, we'd be glad to learn our ſelves of better Philoſophers, tho we don't hope ever to receive entire ſatisfaction in it. However, if this of the *Tails* be true, we don't know but ſo may be the ſtrange ſtory of the *Head*, which we formerly had from thoſe parts, of the teeming Woman who having ſeen an *Execution*, was ſo extreamly frighted when ſhe ſaw the head ſever'd from the body, that ſhe went home and ſoon fell in *Labour*, and was deliver'd of a Child whoſe *Head* was newly divided from the *Body*, and both *freſh* and *bleeding*.

Queſt. 4. *Gentlemen, I am deſired by a friend out of* Flanders *to beg the favour of your anſwer, and reaſons upon a ſubject which his own Judgment cannot reſolve him, he is a lover of the Mathematicks, and through want of ingenious perſons in thoſe parts, has addreſſed himſelf to you.*

The matter is this. During the late famous Siege of Namur, *he found on ſeveral aſſaults there made, that the Drum-beaters uſually held their Drums before them, on advancing to the attacks proved extraordinary good Armour, for they received ſeveral ſmall ſhot in the batter heads which they went through, but immedially ſtruck out again by the Rims and not toucht the ſnare heads, and by this means ſeveral of them were preſerv'd. They held the Drums directly before them laying their hands one upon the hoops, and keeping the ſnare head clear from their bodies. Your anſwer herein is earneſtly deſired, to know the cauſe of the ball not piercing through both heads. I am Gentlemen, Your moſt humble Servant.*

Anſw. We can but gueſs at the reaſon, and leave others to gueſs better. 'Tis probable that the *Drums* being hard brac'd tho not proof againſt the ſhot, yet might have ſtrength enough to turn the Ball glancingly in the Inſide, not ſuffering it to go directly thorough, eſpecially when 'tis likely few of the ſhot were point blank againſt 'em, but might hit 'em *ſlantingly* as they cou'd ſcarce do otherwiſe when the Defendents had the *higher ground*.

Advertiſements.

☞ A Calm or Sober enquiry, concerning the poſſibility of a Trinity in the Godhead; in a letter to a perſon of worth, with 2 other pieces in Vindication of it, by *John How* Miniſter of the Goſpel.

☞ Of free Juſtification of Chriſt, written firſt in Latin by *John Fox*, Author of the Book of *Martyrs*. Now tranſlated into *Engliſh*.

☞ A New Creature or the nature properties, and neceſſity of the great work of the new Creation upon the Souls of Men. By *O. Heywood* Miniſter of the Goſpel.

☞ Family Hymns gather'd (moſtly) out of the beſt Tranſlations of *David's Pſalms*. By *M. Henry*, Miniſter of the Goſpel.

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